



Ratification voting on Amendments to the UCC Constitution by the Delegates to the 2018 Conference Annual Celebration

On July 2 and 3, 2017, the Thirty-first General Synod adopted a series of amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ

- dealing with the relationship between the United Church of Christ and the United Church of Canada,
- on authorized ministry, and
- relating to the structure of the Board of Directors and National Setting.

The Illinois Conference of the UCC, along with the 37 other conferences are now charged with voting whether to ratify the amendments to the Constitution; 2/3 (26) of the conferences must ratify prior to the next General Synod for the amendments to take effect. Amendments to the Bylaws do not require ratification by the conferences, but those bylaw changes that relate to the constitutional amendments only take effect upon ratification of these constitutional amendments.

The motion comes to the delegates of the 2018 Illinois Conference Annual Celebration from the Conference Council and requires no second:

The Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ ratifies the amendments to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ as voted by the Thirty-first General Synod on July 2 and 3, 2017.

There will be opportunity to discuss or debate the motion, but it cannot be amended. Assuming the vote is taken, it is a “yes” or “no” question.

The full text of the UCC Constitution and UCC Bylaws with the changes highlighted are available online at <http://www.ucc.org/ucc_constitution_and_bylaws> (no spaces, rather underscores).

- Upon ratification by both groups, the United Church of Canada will be in full communion with the UCC, much like our relationship with the Christian Church Disciples of Christ.
- The changes on authorized ministry are clean-up of language and do not encompass the larger changes envisioned by Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization Team (MESA).
- The structural changes to the Board of Directors and National Setting is the next piece to a restructuring that began several years ago. It eliminates the Collegium of Officers and replaces it with the General Minister and President and Associate General Ministers, of which there are currently two. It allows the UCC Board to determine what officers and how many of each are needed, but those officers will still be called and elected by the General Synod. It also realigns the UCC Board, changing its make-up in order to affirm representation across the Church in line with the commitment of the United Church of Christ to be an inclusive Church.